Canadian Coast Guard
Garde côtière canadienne
KITSILANO
Canada
GENETTA BADKERHANIAN

Canada

CANADIAN COAST GUARD STATION KITSILANO

The newly re-built Canadian Coast Guard Station Kitsilano officially opened on June 4, 1994. The station includes a float for the Coast Guard vessels, an operations ready room, crew accommodations and a boating safety office.

The Kitsilano Coast Guard facility was destroyed by fire on July 7, 1991. Six Coast Guard crew and about 80 Greater Vancouver firefighters battled the blazing inferno. While the station was being re-built, the Canadian Coast Guard crew and vessels were accommodated at the Fisheries and Oceans station in West Vancouver.

The Kitsilano Coast Guard station began as a modest World War II Air Force crash boat base and evolved into one of Canada's busiest Coast Guard stations.

The Coast Guard Station Kitsilano serves the surrounding waters of English Bay, False Creek, Vancouver harbour, Burrard Inlet, the mouth of the Fraser River, Howe Sound, Indian Arm and a portion of the Strait of Georgia. With a majority of B.C.'s 500,000 pleasure craft sailing in their patrol area, Kitsilano station crew members see plenty of action.

One of the Canadian Coast Guard's primary responsibilities is to provide quick search and rescue response. At CCG Station Kitsilano fast rescue boats such as the 12.4 metre CCGC OSPREY are utilized. The vessel is lightweight, with a modified deep-V planing type aluminum hull powered by two Mitsubishi direct drive 475 kW diesel engines with twin screws and twin rudders. The vessel normally cruises at 20 to 22 knots, with a top speed of 26 knots. CCGC OSPREY is equipped with breathing apparatus, immersion suits, lifejackets for children and adults, first aid equipment, fire extinguishers, a spine board for back injuries, a salvage pump, a toolbox, a towline and an inflatable boat. When not tasked to search and rescue duties, CCGC OSPREY is employed for servicing aids to navigation, transporting personnel and light freight, carrying out boating safety inspections, and assisting in pollution incidents.

CCGC OSPREY has a complement of three consisting of a coxswain and two crew members. At least one crew member is a rescue specialist trained in advanced first aid, firefighting and rescue techniques. Crew members work 12-hour shifts and the station is open 24-hours a day.

A unique feature of Coast Guard Station Kitsilano is its proximity to downtown Vancouver, making it easily accessible to the urban marine community.

For further information contact:

Canadian Coast Guard
Public Affairs
1020-800 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.
(604) 666-3155

For more information on Small Vessel Courtesy Examinations, contact: (604) 666-0146.

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Photo: Brian Rempel

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